CLAIMS TO THE INVENTION

1. A storage device for a disc media, the storage device comprising:

(a) a case, the case comprising:

(i) bottom, top, left-side, right-side, and back-side case walls defining a generally rectangular, box-like shape having a bottom, top, left side, right side, back side, and front side,

(ii) a cavity defined inside the case walls that is at least sufficient to accommodate the disc media, and

(iii) an opening defined in the front side of the case, the opening being at least sufficient for inserting the disc media edgewise into the cavity;

(b) a tray, the tray comprising:

(i) central, left-side, and right-side tray walls defining a generally rectangular, tray-like shape,

(ii) the left-side and right-side tray walls being sufficiently spaced apart such that the left-side and right-side case walls of the case can be positioned between the left-side and right-side tray walls and with at least sufficient clearance such that sheet label material can be positioned between the left-side tray wall and the left-side case wall and between the right-side tray wall and the right-side case wall, and

(iii) at least a portion of each of the left-side and right-side tray walls being at least sufficiently transparent to see sheet label material therethrough; and

(c) a means for retaining the tray on the case.

2. A storage device for a disc media, the storage device comprising:

(a) a case, the case comprising:

(i) bottom, top, left-side, right-side, and back-side case walls defining a generally rectangular, box-like shape having a bottom, top, left side, right side, back side, and front side,

(ii) a cavity defined inside the case walls that is at least sufficient to accommodate the disc media, and

(iii) an opening defined in the front side of the case, the opening being at least sufficient for inserting the disc media edgewise into the cavity;

(b) a tray, the tray comprising:

(i) central, left-side, and right-side tray walls defining a generally rectangular, tray-like shape, wherein when the tray is positioned on the case, the tray does not prevent inserting the disc media into the cavity through the opening in the front side of the case,

(ii) the left-side and right-side tray walls being sufficiently spaced apart such that the left-side and right-side case walls of the case can be positioned between the left-side and right-side tray walls and with at least sufficient clearance such that sheet label material can be positioned between the left-side tray wall and the left-side case wall and between the right-side tray wall and the right-side case wall, and

(iii) at least a portion of each of the left-side and right-side tray walls being at least sufficiently transparent to see sheet label material therethrough; and

(c) a means for retaining the tray on the case.

3. A storage device for a disc media, the storage device comprising:

(a) a case, the case comprising:

(i) bottom, top, left-side, right-side, and back-side case walls defining a generally rectangular, box-like shape having a bottom, top, left side, right side, back side, and front side, wherein the left side and the right side of the case are shorter than the back side and front side of the case,

(ii) a cavity defined inside the case walls that is at least sufficient to accommodate the disc media, and

(iii) an opening defined in the front side of the case, the opening being at least sufficient for inserting the disc media edgewise into the cavity;

(b) a tray, the tray comprising:

(i) central, left-side, and right-side tray walls defining a generally rectangular, tray-like shape,

(ii) the left-side and right-side tray walls being sufficiently spaced apart such that the left-side and right-side case walls of the case can be positioned between the left-side and right-side tray walls and with at least sufficient clearance such that sheet label material can be positioned between the left-side tray wall and the left-side case wall and between the right-side tray wall and the right-side case wall, and

(iii) at least a portion of each of the left-side and right-side tray walls being at least sufficiently transparent to see sheet label material therethrough; and

(c) a means for retaining the tray on the case.

4. A storage device for a disc media, the storage device comprising:

(a) a case, the case comprising:

(i) bottom, top, left-side, right-side, and back-side case walls defining a generally rectangular, box-like shape having a bottom, top, left side, right side, back side, and front side,

(ii) a cavity defined inside the case that is at least sufficient to accommodate the disc media, and

(iii) an opening defined in the front side of the case, the opening being at least sufficient for inserting the disc media edgewise into the cavity;

(b) a tray, the tray comprising:

(i) central, left-side, and right-side tray walls defining a generally rectangular, tray-like shape,

(ii) the left-side and right-side tray walls being sufficiently spaced apart such that the left-side and right-side case walls of the case can be positioned between the left-side and right-side tray walls and with sufficient clearance such that sheet label material can be positioned between the left-side tray wall and the left-side case wall and between the right-side tray wall and the right-side case wall, and

(iii) at least a portion of each of the left-side and right-side tray walls being at least sufficiently transparent to see sheet label material therethrough; and

(c) at least one set of projecting and recess structures on the left-side tray wall and left-side case wall and at least one set of projecting and recess structures on each of the right-side tray wall and right-side case wall, the structures cooperating to retain the tray on the case.

5. A storage device for a disc media, the storage device comprising:

(a) a case, the case comprising:

(i) bottom, top, left-side, right-side, and back-side case walls defining a generally rectangular, box-like shape having a bottom, top, left side, right side, back side, and front side,

(ii) a cavity defined inside the case that is at least sufficient to accommodate the disc media, and

(iii) an opening defined in the front side of the case, the opening being at least sufficient for inserting the disc media edgewise into the cavity;

(b) a tray, the tray comprising:

(i) central, left-side, and right-side tray walls defining a generally rectangular, tray-like shape,

(ii) the left-side and right-side tray walls being sufficiently spaced apart such that the left-side and right-side case walls of the case can be positioned between the left-side and right-side tray walls and with sufficient clearance such that sheet label material can be positioned between the left-side tray wall and the left-side case wall and between the right-side tray wall and the right-side case wall, and

(iii) at least a portion of each of the left-side and right-side tray walls being at least sufficiently transparent to see sheet label material therethrough; and

(c) a groove having closed ends along each of the left-side and right-side case walls, and at least three spaced-apart projecting structures on each of the left-side and right-side tray walls adapted to be positioned in the groove of each of the left-side and right-side case walls, respectively, wherein two of the three spaced-apart projecting structures on each of the left-side and right-side walls are sufficient to retain the tray on the case and guide the tray to slide forward or backward on the left-side and right-side walls of the case.

6. The storage device according to claim 5, wherein the three spaced-apart projections are quarter-spherical in shape.

7. A storage device for a disc media, the storage device comprising:

(a) a case, the case comprising:

(i) bottom, top, left-side, right-side, and back-side case walls defining a generally rectangular, box-like shape having a bottom, top, left side, right side, back side, and front side, wherein the left side and the right side of the case are shorter than the back side and front side of the case,

(ii) a cavity defined inside the case walls that is at least sufficient to accommodate the disc media,

(iii) an opening defined in the front side of the case, the opening being at least sufficient for inserting the disc media into the cavity;

(b) a tab adjacent the cavity that can be moved between

a locking position that prevents the passage of the diameter of the disc media through the cavity toward the opening, and

a release position that permits the passage of the diameter of the disc media through the cavity toward the opening; and

(c) a tab spring that is operatively connected between the case and the tab so that the tab spring is relatively relaxed when the tab is in the locking position and the tab spring is relatively compressed when the tab is in the release position.

8. The storage device according to claim 7, further comprising:

(a) a tray, the tray comprising:

(i) central, left-side, and right-side tray walls defining a generally rectangular, tray-like shape,

(ii) the left-side and right-side tray walls being sufficiently spaced apart such that the left-side and right-side case walls of the case can be positioned between the left-side and right-side tray walls and with at least sufficient clearance such that sheet label material can be positioned between the left-side tray wall and the left-side case wall and between the right-side tray wall and the right-side case wall, and

(iii) at least a portion of each of the left-side and right-side tray walls being at least sufficiently transparent to see sheet label material therethrough; and

(b) a means for retaining the tray on the case.

9. The storage device according to claim 7, further comprising:

(a) a tray, the tray comprising:

(i) central, left-side, and right-side tray walls defining a generally rectangular, tray-like shape,

(ii) the left-side and right-side tray walls being sufficiently spaced apart such that the left-side and right-side case walls of the case can be positioned between the left-side and right-side tray walls and with at least sufficient clearance such that sheet label material can be positioned between the left-side tray wall and the left-side case wall and between the right-side tray wall and the right-side case wall, and

(iii) at least a portion of each of the left-side and right-side tray walls being at least sufficiently transparent to see sheet label material therethrough; and

(b) at least one set of projecting and recess structures on the left-side tray wall and left-side case wall and at least one set of set of projecting and recess structures on each of the right-side tray wall and right-side case wall, the structures cooperating to retain the tray on the case.

10. The storage device according to any one of claims 2 and 4-6, wherein the left side and the right side of the case are shorter than the back side and front side of the case.

11. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-9, further comprising a front-side case wall, the opening in the front side of the case being at least partially defined by the front-side case wall.

12. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein the left-side and right-side case walls define the left side and right side of the case, respectively, to have a flat profile when viewed from the front side or the back side of the case.

13. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-6, 8, or 9, wherein the left-side and right-side case walls define the left side of the case, respectively, to have a stepped profile when viewed from the front side or the back side of the case.

14. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-6, further comprising: a means for selectively controlling the release of the disc media from the case.

15. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-6, further comprising:

(a) a tab adjacent the cavity that can be moved between

a locking position that prevents the passage of the diameter of the disc media through the cavity toward the opening, and

a release position that permits the passage of the diameter of the disc media through the cavity toward the opening; and

(b) a means for biasing the tab in the locking position.

16. The storage device according to claim 15, wherein, when the disc media is in the cavity, the means for biasing the tab in the locking position can be overcome by gently jerking the case in a forward and then a backward direction, such that the disc media tends to move forward toward the opening relative to the backward motion of the case, which relative momentum causes the disc media to move against the tab and overcomes the biasing of the tab.

17. The storage device according to claim 16, wherein the tab and the means for biasing the tab in the locking position are integrally formed.

18. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-6, further comprising:

(a) a tab adjacent the cavity that can be moved between

a locking position that prevents the passage of the diameter of the disc media through the cavity toward the opening, and

a release position that permits the passage of the diameter of the disc media through the cavity toward the opening; and

(b) a tab spring that is operatively connected between the case and the tab so that the tab spring is relatively relaxed when the tab is in the locking position and the tab spring is relatively compressed when the tab is in the release position.

19. The storage device according to claim 18, wherein, when the disc media is in the cavity, the means for biasing the tab in the locking position can be overcome by gently jerking the case in a forward and then a backward direction, such that the disc media tends to move forward toward the opening relative to the backward motion of the case, which relative momentum causes the disc media to move against the tab and overcomes the biasing of the tab.

20. The storage device according to claim 18, wherein the tab and tab spring are integrally formed.

21. The storage device according to any one of claims 7-9, wherein, when the disc media is in the cavity, the means for biasing the tab in the locking position can be overcome by gently jerking the case in a forward and then a backward direction, such that the disc media tends to move forward toward the opening relative to the backward motion of the case, which relative momentum causes the disc media to move against the tab and overcomes the biasing of the tab.

22. The storage device according to claim 21, wherein the tab and tab spring are integrally formed.

23. The storage device according to claim 15, further comprising: a means for manually overcoming the means for biasing the tab in the locking position.

24. The storage device according to claim 18, further comprising: a means for manually overcoming the tab spring.

25. The storage device according to claim 18, further comprising:
(a) an actuator access opening in one or more of the case walls;
(b) an actuator manually accessible through the actuator access opening in the case, the actuator being operatively connected to the tab, and the actuator being movable between a locking position and a release position, which correspond to the locking position and release position of the tab, respectively.

26. The storage device according to claim 25, wherein the actuator comprises a pad that extends into the actuator access opening and can be moved between two positions in the actuator access opening.

27. The storage device according to claim 26, wherein the pad does not extend through the actuator access opening beyond an outermost profile of the case wall or case walls in which the actuator access opening is located.

28. The storage device according to claim 26, wherein the tab, the tab spring, and the pad are integrally formed.

29. The storage device according to any one of claims 7-9, wherein the means for biasing the tab in the locking position further comprises a means for manually overcoming the tab spring.

30. The storage device according to any one of claims 7-9, further comprising:

(a) an actuator access opening in one or more of the case walls;

(b) an actuator manually accessible through the actuator access opening in the case, the actuator being operatively connected to the tab, and the actuator being movable between a locking position and a release position, which corresponds to the locking position and release position of the tab, respectively.

31. The storage device according to claim 30, wherein the actuator comprises a pad that extends into the actuator access opening and can be moved between two positions in the actuator access opening.

32. The storage device according to claim 31, wherein the pad does not extend through the actuator access opening beyond an outermost profile of the case wall or case walls in which the actuator access opening is located.

33. The storage device according to claim 31, wherein the tab, the tab spring, and the pad are integrally formed.

34. The storage device according to claim 25, further comprising: a dust cover that closes the actuator access opening when the pad is in any position in the actuator access opening.

35. The storage device according to claim 34, wherein the tab, the tab spring, the pad, and the dust cover are integrally formed.

36. The storage device according to claim 30, further comprising: a dust cover that closes the actuator access opening when the pad is in any position in the actuator access opening.

37. The storage device according to claim 36, wherein the tab, the tab spring, the pad, and the dust cover are integrally formed.

38. The storage device according to claim 23, further comprising: a means for ejecting the disc media from the case.

39. The storage device according to claim 24, further comprising: a means for ejecting the disc media from the case.

40. The storage device according to claim 24, further comprising: an ejector spring operatively positioned in the case to store potential energy as the disc media is inserted through the opening into the cavity, which stored potential energy is used to assist in ejecting the disc media from the case with the means for manually overcoming the tab spring.

41. The storage device according to claim 40, wherein the tab, the tab spring, and the ejector spring are integrally formed.

42. The storage device according to claim 40, wherein the ejector spring is operatively positioned against the back-side case wall.

43. The storage device according to claim 25, further comprising: a means for ejecting the disc media from the case.

44. The storage device according to claim 25, further comprising: an ejector spring operatively positioned in the case to store potential energy as the disc media is inserted through the opening into the cavity, which stored potential energy is used to assist in ejecting the disc media from the case with the means for manually overcoming the tab spring.

45. The storage device according to claim 44, wherein the tab, the tab spring, and the ejector spring are integrally formed.

46. The storage device according to claim 44, wherein the ejector spring is operatively positioned against the back-side case wall.

47. The storage device according to claim 29, further comprising: a means for ejecting the disc media from the case.

48. The storage device according to claim 29, further comprising: an ejector spring operatively positioned in the case to store potential energy as the disc media is inserted through the opening into the cavity, which stored potential energy is used to assist in ejecting the disc media from the case with the means for manually overcoming the tab spring.

49. The storage device according to claim 48, wherein the tab, the tab spring, and the ejector spring are integrally formed.

50. The storage device according to claim 48, wherein the ejector spring is operatively positioned against the back-side case wall.

51. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-9, further comprising the disc media.

52. The storage device according to claim 51, wherein the disc media is a CD or DVD.

53. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the tray further comprises: front-side and back-side tray walls, such that, when the tray is retained on the case, the central tray wall can be spaced apart from the bottom case wall and a printed media can be retained between the bottom case wall and central tray wall by the left-side, right-side, front-side, and back-side tray walls.

54. The storage device according to claim 53, wherein the front-side tray wall does not prevent inserting the disc media into the cavity through the opening in the front side of the case.

55. The storage device according to claim 53, wherein the combined height of the back-side tray wall with the back-side case wall is about the same as the height of the left-side and right-side tray walls.

56. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-6, 8, or 9, wherein the left-side and right-side tray walls are the same length as the left-side and right-side case walls and are at least the same height as the left-side and right-side case walls.

57. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-6, 8, or 9, wherein at least a portion of the central tray wall is at least sufficiently transparent to see printed media therethrough.

58. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-6, 8, or 9, wherein the entirety of the central, left-side, and right-side tray walls are transparent.

59. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-6, 8, or 9, further comprising printed media positioned between the case and the tray.

60. The storage device according to claim 59, wherein the printed media further comprises: sheet label material.

61. The storage device according to claim 60, wherein the sheet label material further comprises: a spine graphics label being a single piece of rectangular sheet material having two bend lines formed near and parallel to the shorter sides of the cut piece of rectangular sheet material, which define a central, relatively-major rectangular area that is approximately the length and width of the bottom case wall of the case and also define two relatively-smaller rectangular end portion areas that are approximately the size of the width and height of the left-side and right-side case walls and is generally U-shaped, whereby the graphics label can be positioned such that the relatively-smaller end portions of the graphics label are visible through either of the left-side and right-side tray walls.

62. The storage device according to claim 59, wherein the printed media further comprises a booklet.

63. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the means for retaining the tray on the case further comprises: a means for selectively removing and attaching the tray and the case, whereby the case can be used independently of the tray.

64. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the means for retaining the tray on the case further comprises: at least one set of projecting and recess structures on the left-side tray wall and left-side case wall and at least one set of projecting and recess structures on each of the right-side tray wall and right-side case wall, the structures cooperating to retain the tray on the case.

65. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the means for retaining the tray on the case further comprises: a means for selectively moving the tray between a closed position on the case and an open position, such that when the tray is in the open position, printed media can be selectively inserted or removed from between the case and the tray.

66. The storage device according to claim 65, wherein the means for selectively moving the tray on the case further comprises: a means for sliding the tray relative to the case between the closed position and the open position.

67. The storage device according to claim 66, wherein the means for sliding the tray relative to the case further comprises: a means for sliding the tray in a parallel direction along the left-side and right-side case walls.

68. The storage device according to claim 66, wherein the means for retaining the tray on the case further comprises: at least one set of projecting and groove structures on the left-side tray wall and left-side case wall and at least one set of projecting and groove structures on each of the right-side tray wall and right-side case wall, the structures cooperating to retain the tray on the case.

69. The storage device according to claim 68, wherein the groove structures are parallel to the left-side and right-side case walls.

70. The storage device according to claims 1-9, further comprising at least one standoff adjacent the cavity to help support the bottom and top case walls in spaced-apart relation.

71. A storage device according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein at least the bottom case wall defines a base of the case, at least the top case wall defines a lid of the case, and wall structures on the base and/or the lid that form the two longer side case walls and the two shorter side case walls of the case, whereby the base and the lid can be cooperatively positioned to form the case.

72. The storage device according to claim 71, further comprising: means for selectively retaining the base and lid together to form the rectangular case.

73. The storage device according to claim 72, wherein the means for selectively retaining the base and the lid together further comprises: a plurality of interlocking structures that snap together or apart.

74. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein the inner dimension between the top case wall and the bottom case wall is sufficient to provide a clearance space between at least one recording surface of the disc media.

75. The storage device according to claim 74, wherein the inner dimension between the top case wall and the bottom case wall is sufficient to provide a clearance between both sides of the disc media.

76. The storage device according to claim 75, wherein disc-engaging members are positioned within the cavity of the case to engage at least three points around the circumferential edge of the disc media, whereby the disc media can be retained within that cavity such that at least one recording surface of the disc media is retained spaced apart from the inner surface of the top or bottom case wall.

77. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein at least one wipe comprising a soft material is positioned on an inner surface of the top case wall or bottom case wall and adjacent the opening, whereby at least one recording surface of the disc media is wiped as the disc media is inserted into the storage cavity.

78. The storage device according to claims 1-9, wherein a plurality of ramped surfaces in the cavity assist in positioning the disc media in the cavity such that at least one recording surface of the disc media is retained spaced apart from the top or bottom case walls.

79. The storage device according to any one of claims 1-9, further comprising a scuff rail on each of the outer surfaces of the top case wall and the bottom case wall.